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<th>Ministers</th>
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<td>Rev. F. Hof</td>
<td>1917-1919</td>
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<td>A. A. Mills</td>
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<td>A. H. Stokoe</td>
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<td>J Prowse</td>
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<td>F. Chowns</td>
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<td>W. H. Sanders</td>
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<td>C.T. Palethorpe</td>
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<td>Rev C. W. Morsley</td>
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<td>G. T. A. Phillipson</td>
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<td>R. P. Watkinson</td>
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<td>Kings College Students</td>
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<td>Rev. J. Bean</td>
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<td>T. Bibby</td>
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<td>A. Jensen</td>
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<td>E. G. Walker</td>
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<td>A. Lewis</td>
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<td>A. T. Quant</td>
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<td>A. S. Willson</td>
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<td>J. S. Hughes</td>
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<td>Rev O. Marks</td>
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<td>J. D. Gaydon</td>
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<td>Rev B. J. Dale</td>
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<td>Rev W. A. Blake</td>
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<td>Rev I. Florence</td>
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<td>Rev R. J. Harris</td>
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<td>Rev P. Smale</td>
<td>2005-2012</td>
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<td>Rev Y. McRostie</td>
<td>2006-2013</td>
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<td>Rev L. Hanson</td>
<td>2014-Present</td>
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for their assistance in the production of this booklet.

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First Section of Norman Park Estate Map
Brisbane Suburbs Norman Park
Estate map for land sale on Saturday, March 12, [19--?]
Record number: 21114659870002061
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Map of Brisbane and Suburbs compiled from the latest information
Gordon & Gotch
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National Park Estate Map 1911
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Norman Park, ca 1925
Negative number: 109632
Link to digital item: http://hdl.handle.net/10462/deriv/90429
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Our History:

It was in July of 1917 when the church, then just one building catering to the roughly one thousand people settled in Norman Park, was erected under Reverend Frederick Hof. Since then, the church has evolved to cater to the broader needs of the Norman Park community, which has grown in the past one hundred years to over six thousand residents, while maintaining its rich history and tradition.

The history of the Norman Park church dates to when Norman Park was a small community located on the outskirts of Brisbane which was then known as National Park. While Norman Park was settled in 1853, its progression and growth was thwarted by several factors such as a lack of adequate transportation and flooding in the area which threatened residents and hindered settlement. It wasn’t until the tram line was introduced in 1903 that settlement of Norman Park began to take off. Followed by the arrival of the Norman Park train station in 1911 and the post office in 1914, which allowed for incremental growth to occur.

In February 1917, the Trustees of the East Brisbane Methodist church agreed that there was an overwhelming need for a church in this up-and-coming suburb, made up of young married couples and their children. With that, the land on the corner of Bennetts Road and McLlwraith Avenue in the National Park Estate was purchased for a mere £95. The Norman Park Methodist Church was opened and dedicated on 22nd July 1917 as part of the East Brisbane Wesleyan Methodist Circuit. The church, designed and built by local resident George H. Turner, seated about 200 people, and was considered notable for its large semi-Gothic windows, artistic pulpit, and its splendid lighting apparatus. When it was opened, there were forty-nine members with fifty Sunday school attendees.

Mr C. Theaker, one of the original trustees, was an active participant in the church's development being choir leader and circuit steward. Other trustees and their families recognised for their loyal standing with the church were Messrs G. Burr, H. Parker, W. Morrison, H. Wren, R. Brien and Shelton. The land and church were divested from the corporation of the Methodist Church and vested in the Uniting Church of Australia property trust in June 1979 following the formation of that church through the amalgamation of the Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in 1977.

The church has grown and shrunk in numbers over the years and had numerous ministers presiding over the Norman Park congregation, offering refuge to residents impacted by world wars, great depressions and natural disasters. The church has remained a symbol of not only faith but of hope and charity during some of Norman Park’s most difficult years and some of its most exciting times.

The building was cited as a place of cultural heritage significance in 1996 by the Brisbane City Council. The place of worship is significant for the evidence it provides about the development of Norman Park in the early twentieth century, the evidence it provides of the importance attached to both religious observance and religious education and for its connection to an important part of the lives of those who worshipped there.

Fast forward to the present day and the Faith Works Uniting Community stands with the original Norman Park building, not having lost its devotion to the community and its charitable spirit. Under the care of Reverend Linda Hanson, Faith Works at Norman Park is now not only a place of worship, but a community centre where members and non-members can use the newly renovated spaces for education and community activities.

The theme for the centennial service is around the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Jesus “put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’” (Matthew 13: 31 – 32) The Norman Park church building has provided rest and comfort for the community for 100 years. The Trustees of the East Brisbane Methodist church planted a seed and it has borne much fruit and will continue to provide a home for those who need it into the future.
Time line of Norman Park over last 100 years:

1914  The First World War is declared.
1917  National Park Methodist Church is built on the corner of Mcllwraith Avenue and Bennetts Road.
1918  First World War ended.
1925  Brisbane City Council, headed by Lord Mayor William Jolly, commenced.
1928  The Royal Flying Doctor Service founded.
1929  Irene Longman elected as first female member of Queensland Parliament.
1930  Brisbane City Council decided.
1931  Woman accepted into the Queensland Police Force.
1932  Blue Nursing Service started from the West End Methodist Mission in Brisbane.
1939  World War II began.
1942  Large numbers of American troops arrive in Brisbane.
1945  World War II ended.
1953  Blue Nursing Service started from the West End Methodist Mission in Brisbane.
1956  LifeLine telephone counselling service established in Brisbane.
1964  referendum passed ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people included in population estimates.
1969  Brisbane's trams are abolished.
1971  Neville Bonner elected as first indigenous member of Federal Parliament.
1974  The Brisbane Flood.
1977  The Wesley Hospital at Auchenflower received its first patients.
1977  Congregations of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Union churches came together under the Basis of Union to form the United Church in Australia.
1982  Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane.
1986  Gateway Bridge opened.
1987  The Fitzgerald Inquiry began.
1988  World Expo 88 held in Brisbane.
2005  Queensland's population reached 4 million.
2008  Quentin Bryce sworn in as first female Governor-General of Australia.
2009  Griffith Australia Day Award awarded to Volunteers of the Eastside Trinity Charity Thrift Shop.
2009  Anna Bligh first female elected in her own right as a state premier in Australia.
2010  Started planning redevelopment of Norman Park. Eastside Trinity mission statement was “Community in Christ - growing, caring, serving”
2011  Severe flooding in Queensland, with thousands of houses in Ipswich and Brisbane inundated, giving rise to the Mud Army.
2012  Eastside Trinity Thrift Shop closed.
2013  South East Uniting Community Memorandum of Understanding expired.
2013  Ceased worship at Norman Park. Members worship at Coorparoo, Morningside and Kangaroo Point Uniting Churches until redevelopment is completed.
2014  Camp Hill UC sale finalised. Proceeds from sale of Camp Hill and Mayfield UC to fund Norman Park redevelopment.
2014  Coorparoo and Eastside Trinity formalised arrangement to work together.
2015  Faith Works Uniting Community was born.
2015  Blessing of newly renovated Norman Park church building.
2017  Faith Works at Norman Park celebrates 100 years.

Our Stories:

The history of the Uniting Church at Norman Park is made up of the many people who have passed through its doors over the past 100 years. While the original members of the church have since passed, the church still has decades of lived experience by those who are still with us today, ready and willing to share their stories with us. With that, the following stories are a snippet of that vast history through the eyes of its members.

Heather Frankling’s story

Heather was just four years old when a neighbour, Mrs Sorrell, brought her along to the church which was just down the street on Mcllwraith Avenue. Being such a young child, Heather doesn’t remember much about the church in those days, except her own participation with the Sunday school. Heather’s fondest memories of the church were with the fellowship groups she took part in as she grew into an adult. Christian Endeavour, Rays, and Comrades, were all programs which fostered friendships, and supported Heather’s faith. Heather shared, “I particularly remember fondly the time I was in comrades. It was a girls group who were of similar age, teenage to probably early twenties and we’d do various activities, enjoy each other’s company and compete in ball game competitions. The church in those days had what they called field days where all the churches competed against each other in Brisbane.”

Judith Heywood’s story

1948 to 1962 memories of National Park Methodist church: Sunday school, Rays, Comrades, Sunday school picnics at Mayfield State School and Sunday school presentations. Sunday school superintendent was Mr George Burr and Mrs Connor was Infants Sunday school Superintendent. Director of Comrades was Mrs Beryl Baumann. Other members were Mr Clarry Costin, Miss Dorothy Wren, Margaret Thornton, Henry Robert, Valerie and Lorraine Hunter, Alan Jones, Randall Woodley, Anne McClintock, Malcolm Jardine, Elaine Smith, Raymond, Daisy and Dawn Sorrell, Bill Lockhart, Lorraine Raper, Jean Rafferty, John and Annette Collins, Doreen Holbeck, Jean Ferguson, Ailsa, Eddy and Roseanne Costin, Valmae Owens, John and Cecil Smith and Graham Fidler.

John Collins’ story

I remember groups/activities from the 1950's and 1960's. Church Choir conductor was Charles Theaker. Order of Knights led by Newton Nielsen. Junior, Intermediate & Young People's Christian Endeavour led by Daisy Sorrell and John Collins. Methodist Youth Fellowship - Les Troughton (died in plane crash), and John Collins. Pooh-bah parties led by John Collins plus many
other helpers. Trevor Wenzel played the rock and roll music on the piano and we had around 150-200 youth at each party. Activities included games, dancing (jiving etc.). We had to get Church approval to have dancing. Rev Trevor Quant led the studies on the theme: "Peter the Rock but no roll" at combined camp at Margate Methodist camp site with Stafford Methodist. Rev Trevor Quant & Rev Jack Hughes led Bible Studies and Church Membership classes. My nephews 3 boys attended Primary School under church during Rev Wilf Blake’s ministry. There was also Ladies Fellowship, Sunday School Picnics at Carina State School, other Church & Circuit Camps and Harvest Festival Church Services.

**Jenny Guyatt’s story**

Two significant mentors in my Christian walk were Daisy Sorrell (now Mrs Daisy Bright) and Mrs Ev Pattemore although many others played a role as well. Daisy was responsible for our Sunday School class reciting John 14: 1-14 as a verse speaking choir at one of our anniversaries and that passage has stayed with me to this day. Mrs Pattemore encouraged us to memorise the books of the bible and for me that has been extremely helpful ever since.

The Youth Group was an important influence in my life as we were blessed to have a great group of young people and we shared many wonderful times at camps and other activities. We didn’t need to look elsewhere for entertainment and I’m sure it was a comfort to our parents! I thank God that I was able to spend my formative years there where I first made a commitment to follow Jesus at the age of 9. The church and the families we grew up with at Norman Park will always hold a special place in my heart.

**Bev Irwin’s story from letters written in 1969**

Friday night we went to the “First Annual Art Show” to be held at Norman Park Methodist Church Hall in aid of the Norman Park Methodist Circuit Fund. It was quite a success financially as the circuit was to receive 20% commission on all art work sold. This combined with afternoon teas and door takings 20c admission resulted in a profit of $100.00 being made. The display consisted of paintings, bark paintings and seed paintings, pottery, shell and stone jewellery and ceramic work. The also had demonstrations of art and pottery. After attending the opening, we adjourned to the basement and did our own art work – posters and placards and collages. We are using it all for our next Youth Service.

We just came home from the most fantastic youth service I think we’ve ever had. We had a different type of Christian Endeavour meeting last Sunday – Margaret was taking it. So she made an apple tart, bought some whipped cream for it and some line cordial. In the middle of the meeting we had a real feast. It was very nice, although Margaret wouldn’t believe us.

**Trevor Wenzel’s story**

Although Norman Park was my late wife Kaye’s family’s church she wanted to get married in Wesley which at the time was in the same circuit. Our 3 children were christened at Norman Park where we attended (living in Hume street) until we moved to Adelaide in January 1974. Our last child, a son was born early December 1973, so we had him christened just before we moved.

**Barb Nielsen’s story from letters written in 1966**

Dad, Arthur Goss (treasurer), has been getting some of the money organised from the Walkathon tonight. John Franklin is just leaving after bringing money from some of the people at Mayfield. Mrs Wanders ended up getting $55.00 – she marched 27 miles. Her husband gave her $16.65, so you can tell Dad really didn’t complain! He had sponsored her at so much a mile, and then said he would give her so much extra if she walked over a certain distance. The poor fellow! Anyhow, Dad said reckons that he should get well over $600.00 now. With Bev’s and Judy’s amounts (which they haven’t given him yet) he’ll have $577 and he still has another dozen or so to collect from as well.
the brass cross and looked very effective especially as there were red and white flowers in the vases. We had no sermon, just took the 14 Stations of the Cross and interspersed them with singing. Judy’s group sang 3 numbers – “O Lamb of God,” “Three Trees”, “The King is Dead”, and as choir pieces we sang “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?” and “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”. Then we sang about another ½ dozen pieces as congregational hymns. Each of the Stations of the Cross had a bible reading of a few verses and then a prayer following it. All was taken from “Prayers of Life” by Michael Quoist. It was really a terrific service – without a hitch. The last song we sang was “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” and we all left the choir seats and went to stand in the sanctuary under the cross and facing it – it was a terrific ending to it. In coffee shop, we had Judy’s group and Arthur Hall and Rodney Murray. The fellows played a few instrumentals and the group sang 8 songs. They were really terrific with Arthur and Rodney backing them. Arthur had some posters – black and white op art things that they put on the curtains and then a purple fluorescent light in front of them. The kids sang in front of this. It was beautiful – except that you could see right through the skirts of their frocks so they ended up singing the second bracket without the lights on. Bit rude!

I had a meeting for Circuit Camp at the church. Mr Stanbrook has been accepted as bus driver as their quote was $41.00 - the next to it was $74.50. Camp was pretty good. There were about 70 people there with Wal Gregory leading it, Mr and Mrs Blandford and Heather and John Frankling were our camp parents. There was no set theme for the camp, but the discussions basically were - “What is Man?”; “What are His Responsibilities to his fellow man?” Saturday morning, we had a study then some free time. Saturday afternoon we had a bus trip to Kondalilla Falls – this involved a terrific hike – too far, too steep, too rough but otherwise enjoyable. The falls were very nice. Saturday night we had a barbecue tea, then some games and then a coffee shop. Sunday, we had a dawn Communion Service in the open-air chapel, at 7am. Sheer madness!!! Sleep and warmth would have been much better but somehow, we all managed to survive. We had another study in the morning then a fair bit of free time both before and after lunch.

**Symon Pratt’s story**

Symon attended in the 1970s. “Being only 3 or 4 at the time, the extent of my memory is the ‘Blind but now I can see’ Sunday School class.”

**Yvonne Pick’s story**

Yvonne and Blair Pick began worshipping at the Norman Park Methodist Church in 1973. They had moved onto Mellwraith Avenue and immediately became cherished members of the church community. Yvonne and Blair were often involved with church affairs, “Blair loved being involved physically with the men’s roster. Blair helped to lay that concrete on the path, as you come up the church, with our son Nathan who was a young man. When Blair retired, he’d come down every Thursday [to the thrift shop], just sort boxes and go to the dump with excess rubbish. Just always liked being involved.” Yvonne’s fondest memory of the church was being embraced by a loving community and seeing her family become a part of the church community. Her late husband, Blair and their three children were baptised in the church and her daughter Nerida was married at the church.

**Karen Bowler’s story**

Karen and the Bowler family have been a part of the church at Norman Park since 2000. Karen fondly remembers Margaret Chester-Master, a lovely lady who was an elder of the church. “Margaret was the elder here and she was one of the most delightful ladies that I’d ever wish to meet. She was always willing to take on whatever, if you every needed anything or wanted anything she was always there. She was here every Sunday, she was here at the thrift shop, she was always here at little angels. When the church started to fall apart and things would fall off the roof and we were just so worried, and we needed to do something here before it was not workable anymore, Margaret was one of the ones that said, ‘Yes, let’s do this. Let’s change. Let’s go forward’ and that was Margaret. For a woman that was eighty plus she was always, ‘Let’s go forward’ and what we need to do and it was always Margaret’s greatest wish that this place remained a place of worship. She didn’t care or have any preconceptions about what sort of...
worship, or who would worship here, but it was always her wish that it would remain a place of
worship and its remained that which is really exciting.” It was Margaret who first involved Karen
with the Little Angels play group and has been a beacon and light in Karen’s life since her arrival
at Norman Park, “I guess her being the one constant through my church experience here has been
very very good.” Karen was heavily involved with the church working alongside Beau Cavill,
John Loneragan and Margaret Chester-Master during the Norman Park renovation. Since 2016
Karen has led Music with Movement with the help of Ross Smith.

Esther Baker’s story

In 2001, Esther, after her husband’s sudden passing, sought direction and guidance in her faith.
She was working at a nurse and came into the church one day when she was off duty. Esther was
welcomed by the elders and members of the church and quickly became involved with the
morning tea group, helping with the thrift shop and lent a hand during other church events. “When
I first came to this church in 2001, I was in the wrong direction. I discovered that it was time to
change my ways, so when I stepped in here, I never looked back. They really supported me all
along, which I am so grateful for.”

Beau Cavill’s story

Beau has been coming along to the
church at Norman Park for the past
ten years. “I had driven past many
times. I’ve lived in the area about
twenty-five years and always
pondered coming inside. One
Sunday, you could call it fortitude or
faith, but I just happened to walk into
this church.” Beau says that he
remembers fondly the wonderful
people and their greetings. It was
something else, something Beau
couldn’t quite pin down, that
impressed him about the community
at Norman Park that he just knew he
needed and wanted in his life. “It’s
just the many things and the times that
things haven’t gone right, with things not working and just the fact that it doesn’t really matter.
There’s been so many good things happen to me here, I feel so lucky and blessed to come to this
church.”

Jean Bennett’s story

Jean had been involved with Eastside Trinity (Mayfield, Camp Hill and Norman Park) for
decades, but arrived at the Norman Park church in 2008, just in time for the then minister,
Christopher Barr to suggest a thrift shop. “We were full of trepidation when the minister’s wife
suggested we have it. Then we got very keen and it took us about eight months to start it up from
the time the idea was conceived and it was a lot of fun. It was a lot of hard work, but a lot of fun.
And we learned a lot”. The thrift shop catered to itinerant people who lived in the area and students
who were looking for goods at a bargain price. It also gave the church an opportunity for outreach.

Hassan Malish’s story

Eleven years ago, Hassan and his brother sought out Rev Peter Smale to ask if there might be
room for their then small congregation, “We went up and we knocked. We weren’t sure if
someone was there and the good news was there was someone in that building. The person came
out and we said hello. He was scared a little bit because it was his first time to see African people,
black people knocking on the door, but because he was a man of God he answered. Then he said,
“What can I do for you?” We presented ourselves and said we are Sudanese and we are looking
for a place where we can worship God.” From there, it wasn’t long after until Peter and Hassan
arranged for the Sudanese Faith Community to worship at Norman Park under the umbrella of the
Uniting Church.

Rob and Martica Schuster’s Story

In 2009 Rob stepped foot into the Norman Park Uniting Church. He remembers that day clearly,
as he recognised something special in the Norman Park church. “I remember there weren’t a lot
of people in the church, but the energy was really strong and you could tell that the Holy Spirit
was strong within the church.” It wasn’t long after that that Martica, then Rob’s partner,

experienced the warm welcome and kindness of the church members. Martica, said that it was this
support and the worship which was unusual to her, which brought her closer to Jesus. “As a
Catholic, you only go to worship at Easter time and Christmas time and since I have been with
my husband I have become a better Christian just by coming to this church. I became more aware
of what I didn’t have before and what the church offered me was being more in my faith and
finding Jesus.” Rob states, “I think it was nice that the church welcomed me and Martica even

Rev Christopher Barr, Rev Peter Smale, Hassan Malish, Rev Yvonne McRostie and Rev Linda Hanson at the Blessing service. 2015.

“In 2013 when everything was ready for the renovation we moved [to Kangaroo Point] and before
we moved we had so many conversations with Peter, Yvonne and church council because they
were asking if really we will be going and coming back after the renovation because they were
not sure that we would be coming back. But at the time we were telling them that this place was
our home and we would be coming back”. After the renovation, they did come back as a faith
community in the Uniting Church. Since 2016 they have worshipped as an independent
congregation called the Sudanese Community Church of Queensland.

Des Hall and Beau Cavill at the Faith Works Open Day. 2016.
though we were only in a partnership relationship; we weren’t married officially. But everyone in the church and the people welcomed us as a couple and I felt that was a wonderful support of me and where I was at that time, which has obviously changed quite a bit in the last seven or eight years since I first stepped foot in this church”.

Where we are today:

Faith Works Norman Park is one of two campuses of the Faith Works Uniting Community Church. In August 2015, the newly renovated and extended building was blessed by Moderator Rev David Baker. We celebrated with two open days where the community joined us to tour the new facility.

Since August 2015 Faith Works members have been worshipping Sunday nights at 5pm. As a community, we have experimented with Messy Church, including planting our herb garden in the children’s playground, as well blessing of the animals’ services and Back to School Sunday and Grandparents Day services. The carols services from yester year have returned. In 2016, we celebrated our first ‘Carols under the Stars’ with an animal farm for children to experience firsthand some of the wonder of the First Christmas. Worship has focussed on building community across all age groups and the night concludes as we gather to share our evening meal. This year we have been doing “a big year” as we live life together. As of July 2017, we resumed Sunday morning worship at Norman Park with an inter-generational service at 10.30am, led by our current minister Rev Linda Hanson.

Our Music program, Music with Movement, is in its second year and is for children from birth to five and follows the First Steps in Music program used across the world. We also add in lots of Playschool and other fun songs.

In 2017, a bi-monthly speakers program, Faith Works Forums was established at Norman Park. The prime objective of the program is to promote community connectedness by bringing in ‘experts’/knowledgeable people to address topics of relevance or interest to our local community. This year in our series of talks we are exploring the theme ‘wellness’ - physical, mental, spiritual and social and includes topics such as nutrition and exercise, beating cancer, maintaining healthy joints and mindfulness.

Everything we do supports our belief that all are welcome as we live out our vision to be a relevant and inviting community of faith connecting people to Jesus and one another. Check out our website http://www.faithworks-uc.com.au/ for more up to date information.

The 100-year history of reaching out and sharing the good news of Jesus will continue. We stand with the Trustees of the East Brisbane Methodist Church to live out the Great Commission to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 19-20)